

Police-State Methods Held Cause of Soviet Blunder on Teachers

By John M. Hightower

Associated Press Staff Writer

Russian police state blundering is being advanced by diplomatic officials here as the real explanation for the melodrama of the fugitive Soviet school teachers in New York.

It is not officially regarded as due to the admittedly bad condition of Soviet-American relations. And its possible efforts in making those relations worse are largely discounted now.

The prevailing opinion at the State Department, for example, appears to be that the Moscow talks on the Berlin crisis will not be affected one way or the other by the row over Mrs. Oksana Stepanovna Kasenkina's quest for freedom in New York and the dogged efforts of Consul General Jacob M. Lomakin to block her plans and get her back to Russia.

No Backdown Allowed. Soviet citizens, by Kremlin standards, aren't supposed to refuse to go home. Their duty is to the Soviet state, not themselves. And to help them keep in line, authorities here say, the Soviet maintains an elaborate police system and rigid set of police-state ideas which can only be redirected by order from the very top.

In trying to force Mrs. Kasenkina and Mr. and Mrs. Michael Ivanovich Samoilov to go back to Russia when their school teaching in New York ended, Mr. Lomakin and his consulate aides in New York were acting just as directly as they would have acted in, say, Bucharest, where the Communists run the whole show.

When their actions became known and American officials and public opinion kicked up a storm, their system allowed no backing down. Mr. Lomakin had to deliver the teachers—or else. This remained true even when he found himself bucking New York police, the New York press, the courts and State Department in Washington.

Great Propaganda Battle. Mr. Lomakin is personally responsible, under American law, for what he did, but the Government's Russian experts view his actions as the end result of a system over which he had no control. How his actions will be viewed in the Kremlin is another matter, for while the American Government's denunciation of his conduct probably causes no worry in Moscow, Mr. Lomakin's failure to deliver the school teachers back home may already have irked Russian leaders considerably.

In its broader policy effects the ease of Mrs. Kasenkina has been one of the great propaganda battles of the cold war for both sides. In that part of the world where they control virtually all the information, the Soviet has sought to prove the existence of a kind of American official gangsterism. Thus they plugged their accusations of official connivance in an alleged kidnapping.

The United States took the exactly opposite line—that it was Russians who were denying freedom to their own people and trying by forceful means, such as the alleged confinement of Mrs. Kasenkina in the Soviet consulate, to compel her return home.

With the order for Mr. Lomakin's

expulsion, plus their conviction that the facts and the evidence are on the side of the United States, American officials believe they have fairly well won this propaganda fight. But they hasten to add it doesn't settle anything and in the cold war must be written up as as merely an incident.

The real issues—leading to the ultimate question of war or peace—are being battled out at present in three far-separated and vastly different theaters of action. These are:

Moscow—Where the East-West talks over the Berlin crisis are coming to a head. Official Washington is still largely uncertain whether the outcome will be an end to the crisis and a truce in Germany or a breakdown of negotiations and a blacker world prospect.

Berlin—Where, in the official American view, the Russians are playing an extremely dangerous pressure game pending the outcome of the Moscow talks. The danger in Berlin, and in the air corridors leading to it from the West, is that the Russians may overplay their hand and start a fight which perhaps they do not want. And agreement in Moscow probably would reverse the Berlin situation almost instantly.

Washington—In the most obscure international negotiations now underway—much less noticed than the Moscow talks, for instance—the United States, Canada and the Western European countries are trying to work out a formula for a mutual defense system. The central idea being developed calls for a North Atlantic alliance embracing all those countries and providing for organization of a common military effort against Russia if necessary.

Lomakin

(Continued From First Page.)

saying, "I'm very glad that he is going."

It was her first direct reference to Mr. Lomakin since she has been in the hospital.

Interpreter Reads Account. A newspaper account of the expulsion was read to Mrs. Kasenkina by an interpreter, after she had noticed one of her guards reading a newspaper.

"What's in the newspaper?" she asked several times in Russian. The guard called the interpreter, who read her the headlines, and then the story of the State Department's action. Her comment followed.

Mall for her continued to pile up, hospital attaches said. Physicians will decide tomorrow if she is strong enough to read letters.

One unidentified visitor brought her a shopping bag tonight, saying it was a gift. It was opened by hospital authorities. They found four cans of cold beer.

The beer was confiscated. For 25 minutes today Mrs. Kasenkina was visited by a Russian Orthodox priest, who said his call was "just a religious visit."

The cleric, the Rev. Basil Mussinpushkin of Sea Cliff, N. J., said "we prayed together."

Another Development. Another development in the case came today from Mrs. Kasenkina's physician, who told Mr. Lomakin in a letter that no one from the Russian consulate would be allowed to see her.

Dr. Grant P. Pennoyer told the Soviet official that the woman "by her own will, without the slightest influence from any source" definitely requests that she not be

visited by the people from the Russian Consulate."

Several days ago, she was quoted as saying this to Mr. Chepurnykh, who was allowed to see her briefly in her hospital room.

"Up to now," Dr. Pennoyer wrote, "the patient's critical condition has necessitated absolute rest. Under these circumstances the advisability of visitors was up to her doctors. As the patient progresses, the choice of visitors is up to her."

Dr. Pennoyer, speaking for the hospital's doctors, said "we have nothing to do with the political aspects of the case and want you to appreciate this very definitely."

Referring to an offer by doctors, later withdrawn, that Mr. Lomakin send a surgeon of his own choice to consult about the case, Dr. Pennoyer wrote:

"We wanted you to understand why your request for a visit was refused and to see how everything possible was being done for her and that the entire facilities of this hospital were fighting for her life. . . . Your desire to come with the doctors indicated that you wanted more than a strictly medical consultation."

Mr. Lomakin was accused by the United States Government of misrepresenting facts in his reports on Mrs. Kasenkina and her status in the consulate building.

Veterans' Group Elects Curtis M. Clark

Curtis M. Clark, Washington patent attorney who lives at 3405 Worthington drive, Westgate, Md., yesterday was elected vice president of the Veterans of the 68th Armored Regiment, which ended a two-day reunion here last night in the Shoreham Hotel.

Mr. Clark, who formerly was secretary-treasurer of the association, served in the regiment as a major during World War II. President of the group is Lawrence Saylor of Detroit. Other officers named yesterday are Henry Hobby of New York, vice president, and Miles Hess of Atlanta, secretary-treasurer.

Approximately 80 members and their wives attended a banquet in the hotel last night. Principal speakers were Maj. Gen. Ernest N. Harmon, U. S. A. retired, wartime commander of the 2d Armored Division, which included the 68th Regiment, and Brig. Gen. William Stokes, U. S. A. Reserve, who was regimental commander.

The 68th Armored Regiment, which dates from both World Wars, and is the oldest tank regiment in the Army, fought in North Africa, Sicily, Normandy and Germany during World War II and was the first American occupation unit to enter Berlin. Its landing teams, one of which was commanded by Harry H. Semmes, patent attorney here, were the first to hit the beaches in North Africa. Deactivated after the war, it was reorganized as the 66th Armored Battalion at Camp Hood, Texas.

Tourist Hotel Under Way Despite labor difficulties, Uruguay hopes to complete a new luxury hotel for tourists in Fray Bentos this year.

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Kerensky Says Soviet Staged Teacher Case To Excuse U. S. Break

By Paul K. Hogue

North American Newspaper Alliance

NEW YORK, Aug. 21.—The possibility that the Soviet Union will break off relations with the United States has been raised by Alexander Kerensky, premier of Russia, in a speech here today.

Mr. Kerensky declared that the Soviet government's bold accusations in the case of the dissident Russian school teachers here were prearranged by the Kremlin as an explanation to the Russian people if the Soviets see world events dictating the ending of United States-Soviet relations.

The exiled former premier declared that Consul General Jacob Lomakin, whose recall has been demanded by the United States, acted on orders from the Kremlin during the entire episode revolving around the teacher, Mrs. Oksana Stepanovna Kasenkina, who leaped from the third floor of the Soviet consulate here last week.

Branding the Molotov-Lomakin charge that Mrs. Kasenkina was kidnapped by White Russian bandits an "indecent lie," Mr. Kerensky added that Countess Alexandra Tolstoy, who harbored the teacher at her New York farm, is a "good woman motivated by humanitarianism rather than politics."

Stalin Foes Unorganized. The former Russian chief of state pointed out that there is no well-knit, regular organization of anti-Stalinists among the 30,000 to 35,000 Russian political emigres in this country. He declared that these exiles are from all strata of Russian society and include democrats, socialists and monarchists.

A democrat himself, Mr. Kerensky declared that no pressure or propaganda is brought on Soviet officials here to break with their government. "It must be a purely voluntary act," he said. "Naturally when they plead with us to save them, we do all we can."

Similarly, in the Soviet Union, Mr. Kerensky said, there is no well-organized underground to combat Communism. He declared that

"there are 'cells' of resistance, usually not connected, and a few large groups that harass the Red Army. For instance, Lithuanians escaping to Scandinavia report an army of 35,000 anti-Communists in their country. In the Ukraine, an insurgent army of 200,000 constantly wages guerrilla warfare on Red troops."

"More significant," he went on, "are 'individual' undergrounds. That is, the profound dissatisfaction of the overwhelming majority of the Russian people."

See Russia Ripe for Change. "The Soviet Union," Mr. Kerensky declared, "is psychologically ripe for change and restoration of democratic freedom."

He pointed out that there is not a family untouched by purges, slave labor or liquidation. "If a free, unfettered election were held today in the Soviet Union," he said, "the Communists would not get more than 5 per cent of the vote."

"Communists," he stressed, "are far more numerous and fanatical outside the Soviet Union—witness the French and Italian elections in which they drew 25 per cent of the votes. There is no frontier of ideas, but with the collapse of Communism in Russia—and it is inevitable—the vibrations will tumble the satellite groups."

Mr. Kerensky declared that there are secret channels of information with the Soviet Union. "The Iron Curtain is full of holes," he said. "The number of persons crossing the frontier is higher than is believed in this country. Many articles written in the United States find their way into Russian hands and are secretly circulated."

Says Sabotage Is Growing. Mr. Kerensky pointed out that despite the ruthless action of the secret police, information reaching him from Russia reports increasing sabotage and whispers of discontent. "At the outbreak of the war," he declared, "hated for Stalin was so great that the people were ready to join Hitler. Masses poured out to meet the invaders. Thousands upon thousands of Red Army troops deserted to the Nazis. Russian men, perhaps 1,000,000, crossed the lines and joined the German Army to help fight Communism."

Mr. Kerensky declared that if Hitler had acted wisely he probably would have defeated the Soviet government, but he so outraged the Russian people that they fought to destroy his armies.

The former premier said the

United States must not err in its actions with Mr. Stalin, nor must it be tricked by him "as it was at Yalta. There, the United States and Britain agreed to help Stalin reparate his subjects by force. This agreement has been Stalin's strongest ally in leading the Russian people to suspect others of friendship from the United States."

Mr. Kerensky asserted that the truth must be hammered at the people of Russia through the breaches in the Iron Curtain and by radio. America, he said, must realize and tell the Russians that:

1. It considers the Soviet government and Russian people as separate.

2. It knows of the suffering of the Russian people.

3. It sympathizes with their struggle to regain liberty.

4. Its struggle against Soviet aggression is aimed at the Communists, and that, in any eventuality, it will not attack the Russian people or Russia as such.

Thurmond Charges Truman Hides Reds' Influence

By the Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S. C., Aug. 21.—The States Rights Democratic presidential candidate today accused President Truman of trying to hide the extent of Communist influence on the Government.

J. Strom Thurmond, South Carolina's Governor asserted: "President Truman and other Government officials are making a desperate effort to hide the extent to which

Communists and Communist sympathizers have honeycombed the administration and have dictated its policies."

Gov. Thurmond said the Senate and House Committees investigating Communist activities are doing the country a real service.

"The President's reference to the inquiries as a 'red herring' is a feeble effort to allay the wrath of the average American . . . to hamper the investigators and to prevent further revelation which will bring out even more clearly the influence that Communists have had in Washington during recent years."

He added: "The so-called civil

rights program which this administration is trying to foist upon the country has its origin in Communism. It is disturbing that President Truman, who urged enactment of the so-called civil rights program upon Congress, now is trying to shield from Congressional investigation those persons in his administration against whom suspicion has been cast."

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